



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Governor's Council for Agricultural Development Food Safety Modernization Working Group



MINUTES OF MEETING HELD January 8, 2014 Connecticut Department of Agriculture 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jason Hoagland, working group co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. In addition to co-chair George Hindinger, other working group members present were:

Christine	Applewhite	DPH Food Protection
Nelson	Cecarelli	Cecarelli Farm
Kristin	DeRosia-Banick	DoAg Aquaculture
Frank	Greene	DCP Food and Standards
Diane	Hirsch	UConn Extension
Anita	Kopchiniski	Hidden Brook Gardens
Steve	Souza	FDA CT Office

Also present were Governor's Council Chairman Commissioner Revczky, Vice Chairmen Henry Talmage and Dean Gregory Weidemann. Governor's Council Members Herb Holden and Shelly Oecslar, staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and several guests.

Co-Chair Michel Keilty was absent. Also invited but did not attend were:

Becky Clark	Clark Farm
Michael Draghi	Littel Acres Farm, Rose's Berry Farm
Bill Driscoll	Heart of the Harvest
Donald Preli	Belltown Hill Orchard
Erin Windham	Windham Gardens
David Zemelsky	Starlight Gardens

II. GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

George Hindinger provided an overview of the council, its Grow Connecticut Farms strategic plan, and progress to date.

III. INTRODUCTION OF WORKING GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Jason Hoagland introduced the original assignment for the Food Safety Modernization working group: 1) Study proposed FDA rules, 2) gather input from producers on concerns regarding compliance, 3) identify gaps, extraordinary costs, and opportunities for assistance regarding compliance, giving a brief history of work and findings leading up to the assignment. Working group members then introduced themselves and provided information about their specific experience and skills relevant to the assignment. A discussion ensued regarding the need to broaden the assignment to address increasingly stringent food safety requirements in general.

IV. Working group members then introduced themselves and provided information about their specific experience and skills relevant to the assignment.

V. STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING DRAFT DELIVERABLES

The group engaged in an in-depth discussion about its assignment and came to consensus on the following: The priorities of further discussion shall include: 1) Education on food safety requirements, 2) Identification of the greatest needs of Connecticut agricultural producers, 3) Review of food safety requirements demanded by the marketplace, 4) Opportunities for assistance to help producers comply with requirements, and 5) Ways regulatory authorities can better work together on this issue.

VI. TOWN HALL MEETING DAY

The group discussed the upcoming agricultural town hall meeting day scheduled for January 29, 2014, at the State Capitol. The groups decided to have a follow up conference call to develop questions for public comment and panel discussion for the Food Safety Modernization session of the town hall meeting.

VII. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS

Jason Hoagland recapped the highlights of the discussion and the next steps, which include members submitting questions for the town hall meeting. These questions will be discussed during a conference call among group members during the week of January 6, 2014. Co-chairs Jason Hoagland and George Hindinger will report this information back to the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development at its February 4, 2014, meeting. The Food Safety Modernization working group will meet again on February 27, 2014.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Jason Hoagland adjourned meeting at 12:23 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by Mark Zotti
January 9, 2014